



# F2s – Full Two’s

## A total alternative for Openings at 2 level

Paulino M. Corrêa

2♣ .....	<b>MULTICOLOR:</b>
	• <b>Weak-2 in a Major</b> (~67 %), <b>or</b>
	• <b>Balanced 23+ H</b> (may have a 5-cards Major) (~4 %), <b>or</b>
	• <b>Any 1-suiter, ALMOST game forcing or better</b> (~29 %)
2♦ .....	<b>2-suiter, ♥ + any other</b> , 5+/5+ cards, weak 6-10 H (7- Losing Tricks) <b>or</b> strong 5- LTs
2♥ .....	<b>2-suiter, ♠ + Minor</b> , 5+/5+, weak 6-10 H (7- LTs) <b>or</b> strong 5- LTs
2♠ .....	<b>2-suiter, ♣ + ♦</b> , 5+/5+, weak 6-10 H (7- LTs) <b>or</b> strong 5- LTs
2NT .....	<b>20-22 H, balanced</b> , may have a 5-cards Major

2-suiter openings are made **either** with a weak (6-10 H, but 7- LTs) **or** a strong (distributional) hand (5- LTs, normally 14+ H), but **NOT** with intermediate hands (which are open in 1-suit). Those opening bids are in TRANSFER, thus allowing Opener to rebid (over Partner’s response) with the strong type hand.

“ALMOST game forcing or better” means “game minus 1 trick, or better”. The main purpose for this type of hands is the identification of a possible slam while still below game level.

**F2s** have a total occurrence probability slightly above 8%, i.e., will occur once every about 12 hands.

### Responses to 2♦ (♥ + any other)

- 2♦      2♥ ..... Weak, to play in ♥
- 2♠ ..... “Not ♥ partner – you can pass or bid your other suit, please”
- 2NT ..... RELAY – “I have an interesting hand... What is your 2nd suit and strength?”
- Other ..... NATURAL...

Over 2♥, Opener will only rebid with a STRONG hand (5- LTs), declaring the 2nd suit economically (2♠, 3♣ or 3♦).

Over 2♠, with a weak hand (6-10 H) Opener will PASS or rebid 3♣ or 3♦, flagging the 2nd suit. With a STRONG hand (5- LTs), Opener will rebid 3♠, 4♣ or 4♦, again flagging the 2nd suit.

Over the 2NT RELAY, Opener has to inform partner about the 2nd suit AND the strength. With a weak hand, rebids will be 3♣ (♥+♣), 3♦ (♥+♦) or 3♥ (♥+♠, CAUTION), but with a STRONG hand they will be 4♣ (♥+♣), 4♦ (♥+♦) or 3♠ (♥+♠).

Other responses from partner will be natural. Make your own arrangement for the corresponding strength and distribution, but I like:

- Game .....proposal
- 3+ Minor .....7+ cards, weak, NF
- 3 Major .....**5 or 6 cards, 15-18 H, invitational**

Over a response like this in 3-of-a-Major, Opener may PASS, bid game on the Major or 3NT, declare his/her 2nd suit (weak, misfit), or explore a slam.

### Responses to 2♥ (♠ + Minor)

- 2♥      2♠ ..... Weak, to play in ♠
- 3♣ ..... “Not ♠ partner – if you are weak, you can pass or bid 3♦, please”
- 2NT ..... RELAY – “I have an interesting hand... What is your 2nd suit and strength?”
- Other ..... NATURAL...

Over 2♠, Opener will PASS with a weak hand (6-10 H). With a STRONG hand (5- LTs) he/she will always rebid 3♣ or 3♦, flagging the 2nd suit.

Over 3♣, Opener will pass or correct to 3♦ with a weak hand. With a STRONG hand he/she will rebid 4♣ or 4♦.

Over the 2NT RELAY, Opener will rebid 3♣ or 3♦ with a weak hand, flagging the 2nd suit. But will declare it at level 4 to signal a STRONG hand.

Other, natural responses can be dealt with as before.

### Responses to 2♠ (both Minors)

- 2♠      3♣ / 3♦ ..... Weak, to play
- 2NT ..... RELAY – “I have an interesting hand... Tell me more about yours!”
- Other ..... NATURAL...

Once this opening makes both suits explicit, Responder will, with no further ambitions, simply pick the best contract in his/her 1st response. Opener will only speak again with a STRONG hand (5- LTs) and prospects for something better.

Over the 2NT RELAY, Opener will simply rebid 3♣ with a weak hand (6-10 H) – which will be passed over or corrected to ♦ by Responder to stop the auction. Any other rebid will show a STRONG HAND (5- LTs), though Opener is recommended to rebid the shortest Major (singleton or void).

Natural responses can be dealt with as before.

### Responses to 2NT

You will have your own arrangements for this. I like:

- 3♣ .....PUPPET STAYMAN
- 3♦/♥ .....TRANSFER to ♥/♠
- 3♠ .....5+4 cards in ♠+♥



## **F2s Openings** **Some advantages (and disadvantages...)**

Several advantages can be recognised to **F2s** Openings, beyond its elegant coherence and the highly frequent disturbances it will create to the opponents, even with relatively weak hands:

- adv1.** **F2s** maximizes the bidding aggressiveness, since ALL opening bids potentially occupy the whole 2-level.
- adv2.** To open at Level 2 hands with a 5+/5+ 2-suiter – even if it is weak – will make the opponents' task to enter the auction significantly more difficult.
- adv3.** **F2s** allows an efficient treatment of strong 5+/5+ 2-suiters, since Opener indicates the distribution at the opening bid while retaining the possibility to proceed in the auction if his/her hand justifies it.
- adv4.** With long and strong 1-suiters, **F2s** allows the quick identification of keycards, at low levels, making it simpler the task to explore a possible slam.
- adv5.** In all cases of a 2-Suit opening bid, **F2s** originates a systematic doubt in the opponents, since they cannot know immediately for sure if Opener has a weak or strong hand.

On the other hand, it should be recognised:

- dis1.** As with all transfer openings, the 2-suiters **F2s** openings (2♦, 2♥, 2♠) provide an extra overcall window for the left hand side opponent (if he/she has the tools for that).

The reader is of course invited to analyse other disadvantages of **F2s** Openings.

## **Objections and answers...**

### **Wouldn't it be excessive to reserve 3 opening bids to the declaration of 5+/5+ 2-suiters?**

The occurrence probability of a 5+/5+ 2-suiter, in any of the two force zones considered, is ~3.5 % (~5.6 % of total probability, for any number of H points).

In comparison, the occurrence probability of a Polish Two-suiter is ~2.0 %, while that for a 2♦ MULTICOLOR is ~1.9 % (not admitting a lateral 4-cards suit).

Too much? Too little? The decision should also account for the degree of disturbance originated in the opponents bidding, of course...

Anyway, the total occurrence probability of a **F2s** Opening, ~8.3 %, is substantially greater than most other 2-level opening schemes.

### **What if you have a hand justifying a STRONG 2♣ ("traditional", asking for the number of Aces in partner's hand), but with a suit of only 5 cards?**

If H points are enough, opening will be 2NT (or 2♣ followed by NT). With PUPPET STAYMAN you will be able to find a 5-3 fit in a Major, but with 5 cards in a Minor you'd probably better play in NT ...

### **What if you have a very strong 1-suiter hand, with a bad long suit?**

Maybe something like:

♠ J 10 9 8 7 6  
♥ A K x  
♦ A K Q  
♣ A

If you feel it's your day, open 2♣ MULTI **F2s**... Alternatively, open 1♠, aiming at a jump in ♠ in your rebid – maybe not much better, but the hand definitely needs some precious help from partner...

### **What if you have a very strong 5/4?**

Possibly something like:

♠ A K x x x  
♥ Q J x  
♦ A K Q x  
♣ x

Theoretically, this hand could (maybe) be opened in 2♣ STRONG and undetermined (traditional like, say asking for Aces), but must NOT be opened in 2♣ MULTI **F2s**, nor in 2♥ 2-suiter ♠ + Minor.

Anyway, after a "traditional" 2♣ opening, the bidding would likely be quite delicate, if an immediate fit would not be found...

With **F2s**, this hand must be opened in 1♠, with a rebid in ♦ indicating quite a strong hand to partner – unless, of course, the auction would bring some surprises that could be exploited with greater profit...

Better or worse? That hand is certainly quite strong, but a precise help from partner will clearly be needed, and that help is bound to be easier to find if the bidding starts at level 1.

### **Do F2s Openings obey to international acceptance criteria?**

According to WBF, "A two level opening bid in a minor showing a weak two in either major, whether with or without the option of strong hand types" is NOT a "Brown Sticker Convention". No distinction is made between ♣ and ♦.

Still according to WBF, any opening between 2♣ and 3♠ that promises at least 4 cards in a known suit is NOT a "Brown Sticker Convention".

Therefore, it can be said that ALL **F2s** Openings will be acceptable in any environment not particularly protected by anti-conventions rules.

